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The Church
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THE LINK

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church
Winter 2010**

**The Manse
December 2010**

Hi Folks,

*Long time ago in Bethlehem
as the Holy Bible says
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ
was born on Christmas Day*

We once more approach the season of carol singing and rejoicing at the birth of a very special child whose life among us still affects our world today.

Have you ever noticed that the Christmas Story is all about journeying. Our first Christmas card scene is the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. But the cards don't show us the danger and discomfort on the way. Then even when they reached Bethlehem they had difficulty in finding shelter. It was the compassion shown by the innkeeper that gave them a roof under which our Lord and Saviour was born. Not a palace or a mansion but a humble stable saw the birth of our Servant King.

Our scene moves to a hillside where shepherds were guarding their flocks. It was to these humble men that the angels appeared announcing the birth of Jesus. He came to save the poor and the outcast. The shepherds then took the time to journey to the stable to see this new born baby. Later others took the time to seek this special child. Wise men, following a star, journeyed from the East bearing gifts for the child. His arrival was not only for his own people but for all the world.

Today we continue our journey through life with its good times and its sad times. Do we take the time to seek out the Christ whose birth we celebrate each year. In Advent we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love which are all offered to us in Christ our Saviour. He came to show us God's love and forgiveness and to give us the hope of a future surrounded by that love

May God's blessing surround you at Christmas and always.

Helen F Christie

EDITORIAL

It seems no time at all since I was thinking about Christmas last year and now it is upon us once again!

It shows us just how precious time is and how quickly it passes. Christmas! What does it mean to you? Jangling songs and nerves in the shops? Panic over food - what to buy and prepare? Who to invite on the day? What gifts to buy? All this is for some fun, for others hard work but let us not forget the real meaning of Christmas - the coming of Jesus into the world as it's light and it's hope, the gift from God showing his love and forgiveness and the promise of life eternal. Let us remember those who have been part of our life and have gone before us. Let us live in hope and peace and enjoy the gift of life God has given us and live it to the best of our ability doing as He would have us do.

Happy Christmas to one and all,
Jean McCheyne

The winter magazine would not be the same without the following :

The Gate of the Year

I said to the Man who stood at the gate of the year - "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied - "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

So I went forth and finding the hand of God trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875 – 1957)

September 2010

- 1st 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
- 7th Girls Brigade restarts
- 19th Confirmation & Baptism, Sunday Club restarts
- 26th Harvest Festival

October 2010

- 3rd Communion 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- 4th Kirk Session Meeting
- 6th 2 pm. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
- 10th Guild Opening Service
- 10th Lorna Duncan in pulpit
- 17th Lorna Duncan in pulpit
- 24th Lorna Duncan in pulpit
- 24th Bible Sunday
- 31st Uplift of Blythswood Shoe Boxes

November 2010

- 3rd 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
- 7th Soup and Sandwich Lunch after service for C.A.
- 14th Remembrance Sunday
- 28th 1st Sunday in Advent
3 p.m. Remembrance Service for the bereaved

December 2010

- 1st 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
- 19th Gift Service
- 24th 7 p.m. Family - service at Head of Muir
- 24th 11.30 p.m. Watch Night Service at Haggs
- 25th Christmas Day Service
- 26th Lessons and Carols



Christmas Greetings:

Gary and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Nan Ure.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and peaceful, healthy year ahead.
Jean and Murray McCheyne.

Jack and Elizabeth Dunn wish everyone a Joyous Christmas and a
Peaceful New Year.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and all good wishes
for 2011 from Elma Findlay

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Fiona
Shuit

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and happy and healthy New Year
with love from Gwen Hamilton & family

Maisie Mortimer wishes all her friends a Merry Christmas and Good
New Year

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous and Healthy New
Year from Nan & Allan Young and family

Carpet Bowling

The carpet bowling on a Wednesday afternoon is a social occasion for all who attend. The bowling is only part of the day as we also have plenty of chat and a welcome cup of tea to round up the afternoon. On 8th December we are having our Christmas lunch at the Railway Inn, Dennyloanhead, a new venue for us. We would welcome any new members, just come along any Wednesday and we will make you very welcome. Merry Christmas Everyone!

Elma Findlay.

Praise Band

The Praise Band, with Winnie ably leading us, is now well under way with rehearsals for 12th December for the BIG SING - in Church that evening at 6.30 p.m.

There will be many favourites and some new additions so come along and join the the lead up to the Christmas Celebrations.

Elma Findlay

The Sunday Club

As winter approaches, we are starting to get ready for Christmas. The children have learned a traditional song for when we do our collection, and start and end each Sunday Club meeting, with a prayer from a prayer book for the young and teenagers. The children are all keen and the junior crew do bible stories, singing and arts and crafts. The senior group are currently doing bible studies, working closely following the weekly sermons. We send our festive wishes to everyone in the Church and look forward to our next session.

Shona Laird, Sunday Club Leader

1st Hags Girls Brigade

As our new session is well up and running I would like to announce the Retirement of myself and Jean Proffit from the Company at the end of this session March/April 2011.

We desperately need new officers and helpers to keep the Company running, so if you would be interested please get in touch with myself or the Minister.

We have fewer girls this session but our badge work is up and running.

We had a very successful Halloween party and thanks to all parents who helped the girls with their costumes.

We are having our Christmas party on Tuesday 21st December, and we will be singing in the Church on Sunday 19th December with the other organisations.

The Christmas card delivery service will be on Sunday 12th & 19th December a suggested donation per card is 15p .

The Officers & Girls would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & prosperous New Year.

Contact Liz Heeps on 07813857486



Zumba

Class every Monday 6 - 7pm in Haggs Church Hall.
If you want to exercise, have fun, meet new friends and party come along to the class. It's £3 per person.

Pilates

Every Monday 7.15 - 8.15pm in Haggs Church Hall

If you have sore back, shoulders or hips this is the class for you. Anyone will be able to do this form of pilates. It's core, alignment and breathing exercise. Book your space by contacting Liz on 07816857486

Gym Ball Class

Every Tuesday 8-9pm in Haggs Church Hall £2 (going to charity)
Call Liz 07813857486

For more info contact Liz on 07813857486

Poetry Corner

It's Christmas and time to greet you once more,
But what can I say that I've not said before
Except to repeat at this meaningful season
That I have a deeply significant reason
For sending this greeting to tell you today
How thankful I am that you passed my way,
For I happen to have a deep feeling love
For even the people I know little of.
The stranger who smiles as we pass on the street
Or the business acquaintance I happen to meet
Are more than just people with a name and a face
They are part of God's love and each one has a place
In the plan of our Father which is much greater than
All of the plans and inventions of man
And so may the knowledge that God's everywhere,
And as close to you always as one little prayer.

Helen Steiner Rice

1st Haggs Boys' Brigade - Junior Section

The session started well with 24 boys on the roll, around 22 attending every week.

We have started our figure-marching programme and have 3 teams entering the Spiritual trophy this week, based on chapters 14 and 15 of Luke.

The boys have done p.t. and tumbling and played lots of games. Last month we made and decorated empire biscuits which went down very well.

The boys are enjoying football almost every week and will be entering the Battalion competition.

So far we have attended the Church at Harvest, our own dedication service and the Remembrance Sunday services at the Longcroft Memorial and the Church thereafter, and we will start soon practicing for the Christmas gift service.

We hope to start Chess again in the near future, and it will be a great help to have David Currie back again. He did his Queen's badge with us last year, and like Chris Nelson before him, decided to come back and help us.

Two of the company section boys, Sean Griffin and Calum McGreachin have also come along as part of their Queen's badge programme. This is a great help as we have so many boys this year.

The rest of the team, Ernie, John, Sandra, George and myself would like to thank everyone for their continuing support and hope that you all have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Morag Wales officer-in-charge 1st. Haggs Junior Section.

The Guild

The Guild recommenced after the dedication service in Church on 11th October. During this service Mrs Nan Ure was presented with her 40 year certificate - congratulations to Nan on this special occasion.

Once again we have a varied and interesting syllabus. Already we have had 2 interesting afternoons, one with Rev Phyllis Wilson and another with Mrs Jane Allan both very well received by all.

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch at the Railway Inn, Dennyloanhead, on Wednesday 15th December where we will be joined by some friends.

On 28th January we are having a Scots Night and our guests, the Bohemian Concert Party, will be the entertainment.

The 37 Club have been invited to join us on this occasion. Nearer the time, tickets will be on sale for this event at a cost of £3, tea, coffee and other goodies will be available.

A good response would be appreciated as the proceeds go towards our projects.

If you would like to join the Guild we meet mainly on alternate Wednesdays in the McLean Hall come along and you will be made very welcome.

Best wishes to everyone for Christmas and good health and peace in 2011.

Elma Findlay



Church Diary 2010-2011

December

- 1st - 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
19th Gift Service
24th - 7 p.m. Family - service at Head of Muir
24th Watch Night Service at Hags - Retiral offering for Christian Aid
25th Christmas Day Service
26th Lessons and Carols

January 2011

- 5th - 2p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home.
9th 'Souper' Sunday for HIV. - Christian Unity Service with St Luke's at Hags. - Gideon Society in Church

February

- 11th - 2p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home.
19th Elder's Conference - Pastoral Care.
27th Soup and Sandwich Lunch

March

- 2nd - 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home.
6th - 11 a.m. Communion Service.
6th - 6 p.m. Communion Service.
13th 1st Sunday in Lent/Church ASM

April

- 6th - 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home.
7th Palm Sunday followed by Soup & Sandwich Lunch.
18th-24th Holy Week.
22nd Good Friday.
24th Easter Sunday.

Jist Lat The Rafters Ring

I'd say the Mannie's richt indeed!
He's hit the nail richt on the heid;
For maist folk tho' thy gang tae pray'
And listen tril' the sermon tae,
They like tae jine "nae noo and then"
But a' the time in tunes they ken,
For whilst masel' I've lookit roon,
Fin some richt unfamiliar tune,
The Organist wi' gay abandon,
Just started up and left us standin'.

Wi' moo agape, wi' consternation,
That ran richt thru' the congregation,
The only folk the tune inspires,
The Organist and faithful' choir,
The winner foo we dinna sing?
And mak' the rafters dirl and ring,
The folk that gang richt reg'lar kine,
Just like tae sing the hymns they min',
And ithers that come noo and then,
Just say, "We'll no be back again!"

The gweed aul' tunes we really love,
And bring us close tae him above;
They lift the hert and gi'e us pleasure,
Within the kirk, at work and leisure.
We ken the call's for something new,
New Hymns and tunes that mak' ye spew,
They say "twil gie some youth appeal"
This cry for "New" and drive ye feil.

Fin folk staun up there we' their bookies,
And look in fac' like bloomin "Stukies",
The feel richt daft without a doot
For nae a note is comin' oot,
Jist speakin' for masel' its true
I feel frustrated jist like you,
I like tae jine in lusty chorus;
We' Hymns that folk sang lang afore us.

This is the key tae a' the "Service",
And keep ye tee fae getting nervouse,
Ye feel it lichens up her hert,
Jist because her takin' pairt,
Fresh sermons mith be jist the thing?
But gie us Hymns that we can sing.

Jimmy Wright Aberdeen

The U in Jesus

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see its true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came
And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crucified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His Plan?
The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew,
And this word resurrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - just like I love U"
So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what you will do.
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

The above poem was found in another Church's magazine, I just thought it was worth passing on to you!

Ch__ch. What's missing here?

This was on a notice board for another Church!



Baptism

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

Sept 19 Abigail Marie Oliver

Marriage

'Whom God has joined together'

Sept. 5 Lindsay Scouller to Andrew Easton
10 Rebecca Sinclair to Graeme Hamilton
23 Joanne Ferrie to Martin McShane
24 Aileen Service to Graham Bennie

Oct 8 Gillian Flynn to David Cowie

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

Sept. Mrs Janet Hunter Banknock
Mrs Mary Burns “

Oct William Barron Hags

Nov Mrs Margaret Blair Bonnybridge

